

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Ryouichi KOGA et al.

Confirmation No. 7272

Appl. No.: 10/554,624

Examiner: Karen YOUNKINS

(U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/097125)

I.A. Filed: April 27, 2004

Group Art Unit: 3751

For : NOZZLE DEVICE AND HYGIENIC WASHING DEVICE

RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT WITH TRAVERSE

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Arlington, VA 22314

In response to the Examiner's Election of Species Requirement of April 28, 2010, setting forth a one month period for response extending until May 28, 2010, Applicants elect with traverse, the invention identified by the Examiner as Species I (Figures 11-20), for the reasons expressed below. Claims 1-20 are considered to be "readable" on the invention of Species I; and claim 1 is considered to be generic.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Election of Species Requirement. Although the Examiner's Official Action appears to identify different embodiments of the claimed invention, Applicants respectfully request that all of the claims in the instant application be examined, pursuant to the guidelines set forth in MPEP § 803. That is, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the requirement and find that there would not appear to be a "serious burden" on the Patent and Trademark Office in examining claims directed to the nonelected inventions since the search for the inventions identified by the Examiner would be coextensive or at least significantly overlap. That is, Applicants